

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of December 5, 2005**

- 1. Community Center Grand Opening:** The day is drawing closer for the City's grand opening celebration of the Takoma Park Community Center being held this Sunday, December 11 from 2-4:30 pm. Please try to be present right at 2 pm for the opening ceremonies. It's sure to be a grand affair! *(Executive Assistant)*
- 2. Roam Secure Alert Network:** The public side of the Roam Secure Alert Network system for the City has gone into service, and is called "TP ALERT." The equipment and first year support were provided to all COG members free, through Homeland Security funding for the National Capital Region. It is a system that allows the City to send alerts to any or all subscribers to the system over e-mail, text pagers, PDA's and cell phones capable of receiving text messages. The equipment is being jointly administered by the Police, Information Systems and Communications Department of the City. Anyone wishing to register their devices can do so at <http://aviso.takomagov.org>. Follow the easy instructions to select which types of messages to receive. *(Police)*
- 3. Street Restoration (Wards 1 & 6):** The City will not be able to resurface four streets that received concrete repair in October. The Contract with VMP has expired. A new Indefinite Quantities RFP was publicized in November and the bid opening date is December 16. After the bid proposals are reviewed, the City Engineer will prepare a recommendation for bid award to the Council - most likely in late January. The resurfacing of the four streets will be the first items of work in the spring when the contract begins. The affected streets are Dogwood Avenue, Park Avenue, Holton Lane and a small section of Glenside Drive. Public Works will distribute a flyer with this information to the affected streets next week. *(Public Works)*
- 4. Leaf Collection (City-wide):** This year's program is scheduled to be completed December 23. Beginning Monday, December 12, the staff will be providing the final collection on every City street. It is anticipated that this will take the remaining ten working days. The two snow events that occurred this week resulted in significant interruption of collection. All of the six vehicles used for leaf collection were converted to snow response on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Three trucks resumed leaf collection on Wednesday and Thursday. We will be keeping two trucks outfitted with salt spreaders and plows to manage ice spots over the weekend. On Monday, December 12, leaf collection will resume with four trucks in service. The remaining two trucks will resume leaf collection as the weather forecast allows. Currently there is another snow event predicted for Wednesday. *(Public Works)*
- 5. Ethan Allen Road Repair (Ward 2):** At 425 Ethan Allen Avenue, a new house was constructed and in the course of providing utilities the roadway was excavated by the contractor, Sterling Homes, with permit through State Highway Administration. City Engineer, Ali Khalilian, has been following up with SHA, WSSC and Sterling Homes to expedite the permanent repair of the street surface. According to information received Thursday, December 8, Sterling Homes plans to install a permanent patch next week when the weather allows. *(Public Works)*

6. Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Ward 6): The Hampshire Towers Tenant Association is beginning to interview developers that have expressed interest in their property. The 458 unit rental property was offered to the tenants in July 2005 when the owner, Oxon Equities, received a third party contract for the sale of the building. The property is selling for \$16,640,000. The tenants formed an association, secured an attorney and are now conducting regular meetings to move forward with their effort to purchase the property by partnering with a developer. Tenant Capacity Builders, Rozanne Look and Mario Cristaldo are attending the meetings and this week offered the tenants a city-sponsored credit counseling program that would help residents prepare themselves for the eventual purchase of their individual condominiums, should one or both of the towers be converted to condominiums. The program is also available to residents who wish to remain as tenants in the building. *(Housing and Community Development)*

7. Affordable Housing (All Wards): Staff attended an Apartment Assistance Program conducted by Montgomery Housing Partnership on the State of Maryland Assessment Appeal Process and Rental Property Liability Insurance. All landlords owning 2-40 rental units are invited to attend these periodic informative sessions. For those not able to attend, the information is disseminated at the monthly Takoma Park Landlord Certification Meetings. *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. Landlord-Tenant Affairs (All Wards): Moses Wilds, Jr. in the Office on Landlord-Tenant Affairs is continuing to monitor the progress of landlord compliance with the Air Conditioning Ordinance even though the summer of 2005 is now well behind us. Landlords who provided window air conditioner units in the past are required continue providing the ac units and to upgrade the electrical wiring in the building to comply with county code requirements. For those not meeting compliance, the city will be issuing municipal infraction citations, so that air conditioning issues will be addressed before the onset of warm weather in 2006. *(Housing and Community Development)*

9. Granicus: Council approved purchase of the Granicus application on Monday, December 5. The Granicus application was developed to give local government legislative bodies the ability to provide easy access to Council information via the City web site. Developed in conjunction with municipal clerks, Granicus provides indexed, fully searchable multi-media streams and archives of government meetings and documents. Users may follow along with the webposted agenda during the live stream of a meeting. At the completion of each meeting, an indexed, searchable file will be available with links to background material. After Council adopts the minutes, annotated minutes will be part of the package. Both internal and external users will have immediate, searchable access to Council meetings and documents, a tremendous convenience to the user and for staff. DVDs of meetings or segments of meetings can be burned upon request as well. City TV staff also anticipate using the Granicus solution to provide web based video-on-demand of City TV produced shows such as Snapshots. *(City TV)*